



# Virginia Highlands Pinyon-Juniper Fuels Reduction Project

## Project Purpose

Expansion of housing developments in the Virginia City Highlands community of Storey County, in combination with Pinyon-Juniper (PJ) woodland encroachment into sagebrush habitat, have increased fuel loads and created high wildland fire risk zones throughout the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). This project will mitigate fire risks by reducing hazardous fuels.

## Project Treatments

Storey County Fire Protection District (SCFPD) will reduce hazardous fuel loads throughout a 350-acre project area in the Virginia Highlands. Fuels reduction techniques include mechanical mastication, hand thinning, and slash piling and burning in the designated project area.

## Anticipated Impacts & Outcomes

Treatment implementation will result in positive impacts to private landowners by establishing firebreaks that will minimize the spread of fire and allow for effective suppression tactics. Overall forest and rangeland health will also be improved and several watersheds will be protected from post-fire erosion and sedimentation.

## Project Details

Project Timeline	Start	to	End
Project Scoping	[Jan-2016]		[Jun-2016]
Project Inventory	[May-2016]		[Sep-2019]
Planning	[Jan-2016]		[Jan-2018]
Funding Search	[Jun-2016]		[Jul-2017]
Funding Acquisition	[Jul-2017]		[Jun-2022]
Subgrant Awarded	[Mar-2018]		[Jun-2021]
Implementation	[Mar-2018]		[Jun-2021]
Monitoring	[Apr-2018]		[Sep-2022]

### Priority Landscape(s)

Funding and treatments were targeted for this area because it is located within the Virginia Range priority landscape described in the Nevada Natural Resources Action Plan. (<http://www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/nevada>).

### Nevada's Cohesive Strategy

This project is part of the state's strategy because it allows federal, state and local agencies to be more effective and efficient at controlling wildland fires and creating fire-adapted communities.

### Funding Source(s)

- USFS Cooperative Forestry Assistance –Hazardous Fuels Grant
- Storey County

### Threats and Risks to the Area

The lack of recent fires in the project area and Pinyon-Juniper encroachment into rangelands, has significantly altered fire behavior in the project area, leading to a high risk of extreme fire behavior. Houses, barns and other outbuildings in the WUI lack sufficient defensible space. Without thinning over-stocked stands and reducing hazardous fuels, lives and property are at risk.

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## Partners and Collaborators:

- ✓ Storey County Fire Protection District
- ✓ USDA Forest Service
- ✓ US Bureau of Land Mangement
- ✓ Nevada Department of Transportation

## Acres to be Conserved or Treated:

- ✓ 350 acres of forest & rangeland

## Communities & Residents to be Affected or Protected:

- ✓ Virginia City Highlands (Storey County)
- ✓ 40+ Private Parcels

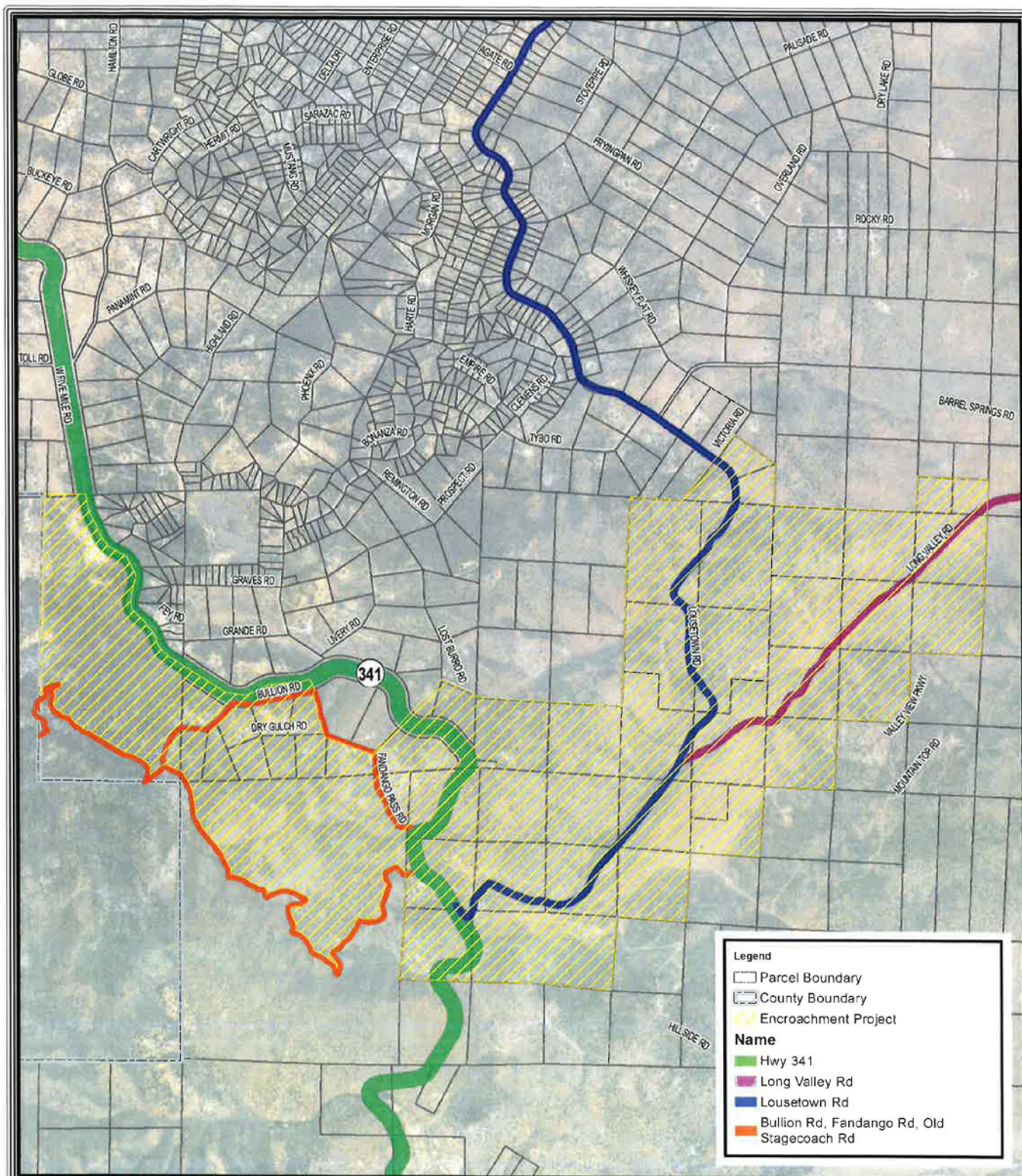
## Watershed(s):

- ✓ Truckee Meadows, Tracy Segment & Dayton Valley



DEPARTMENT OF  
**CONSERVATION &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**





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## Virginia Range Pinyon Juniper (PJ) Encroachment Project

